Time to start moving toward climate action lifeboats; Strong measures are needed to avoid; Titanic-like disaster, Jim Elliott; says

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Body

You have just been told that you are on the Titanic (planet) and are going to hit an iceberg (climate change). There could be a variety of responses.

Some will be deer in headlights. There will be an immediate stop to their motions but at some point, there will be actions again. Most likely, they will continue to go in the direction of their previous movement. If that is in the direction of acting on climate change, they will continue in that direction, slow or fast - hopefully fast in the context of this existential threat. The time stopped could be shortened with incentives such as funds or more Regina residents continuing to act on climate change.

There will be those that will go back to their tasks or activities they were planning to do. If this has been to use or produce climate change fuels, they may be persuaded to change their direction a little, especially if they are repeatedly told by people around them that they need to be ready for the lifeboats. About the only thing that might change them is that the orchestra stops playing and or the authority on the ship directs them to the lifeboats, even if in their mind, they don't think we will need to use them. Some will be that cautious and go back to partying once the threat has been reduced or eliminated. If they do need to get into the lifeboats, they at least will be closer, have a more resilient position and be able to withstand the problems associated with current and future volatile oil and gas prices.

There will be those that will take direction from their peers and respected experts. Their moves toward climate action will be increased and they will take all the available steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Incentives will help, but some of their actions were on the agenda already. It may allow them to go quicker and further than they had planned. They may go to heat pumps or radiant floor heating and get rid of that furnace. They may opt for an electric automobile sooner than their current vehicle status would suggest. They may even stop going to drive-thru or chain restaurants and walk to their local coffee shop and then sit in a local park enjoying nature.

There will be those who see this as a challenge and will put forward solutions like building more lifeboats that are carbon neutral or negative, beyond what is currently available policy. More people will opt for the tiny house alternative and be happy to provide laneway or garden suites for others rather than the mega house or the "cash towers." If you had a 1,500-square-foot house without a furnace versus a 2,500-square-foot one that needs a furnace, which would you choose? If you could have a landscaped yard that needs no water piped from Buffalo Pound Lake, would you do it? Would you ride active transportation to work for much of the spring, summer and fall or all year long? To get climate action moving quickly, we need information on clear and long-term direction that tells us what we need and can do, where to get help and how to open doors to that better future. We need to remove barriers to action like giving the citizens access to their housing or building equity to finance change. The

city needs to take strong action like that public address system on the ship giving directions about where to get to the lifeboats. Tomorrow will not be more of today and we need to get there quickly.

So, which one are you and are you willing to change your path? Jim Elliott is chairperson of the Regina chapter of the Council of Canadians. !@COPYRIGHT=© 2022 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

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